1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

which 160 bear definite names.[12] 131 133

These islands fall into four groups: (a) the Tung-sha group, also known as Pratus. The main island, Tung-sha (about 2.7 sq. mi. in size), lies only 170 nautical miles southeast of Hong Kong and is a center for commercial fishing; (b) the Hsi-sha group, also known as Paracel, about 144 miles from the island of Hainan. The largest island in this group is Yung-hsing (0.7 sq. mi.); (c) the chung-sha group to the east of the Hsi-sha, which is hardly more than a cluster of submerged shoals; (d) the Nan-sha group, the most extensive of the four, some of its far-flung rocks only 434 miles from the Chung-sha. Of this last group, the largest is T'ai-p'ing Island (0.044 sq. mi.), but prime importance should be attached to Nan-wei Island, which could be developed as a strategic harbor. Rich phosphorous resources and marine products are common features of these islands.[13] [135]

The ambiguous status of these islands is indicated by the fact that for centuries the Chung-sha (Central Sand) group was known to the Chinese as Nan-sha (Southern Sand), while the present Nan-sha had borne the designation of T'uan-sha (Mass of Sand). Apparently the Chinese considered the Chung-sha group the southernmost territory and were not very much concerned with jurisdiction over T'uan-sha. The 1951 Japanese Peace Treaty, to which Communist China was not a party, stipulates that Japan forfeits her claim over these islands, but fails to specify under which country their adminstra- 648

12. Hsü Chün-ming, op. cit., pp. 9-10.

13. Ibid., pp. 9-12.

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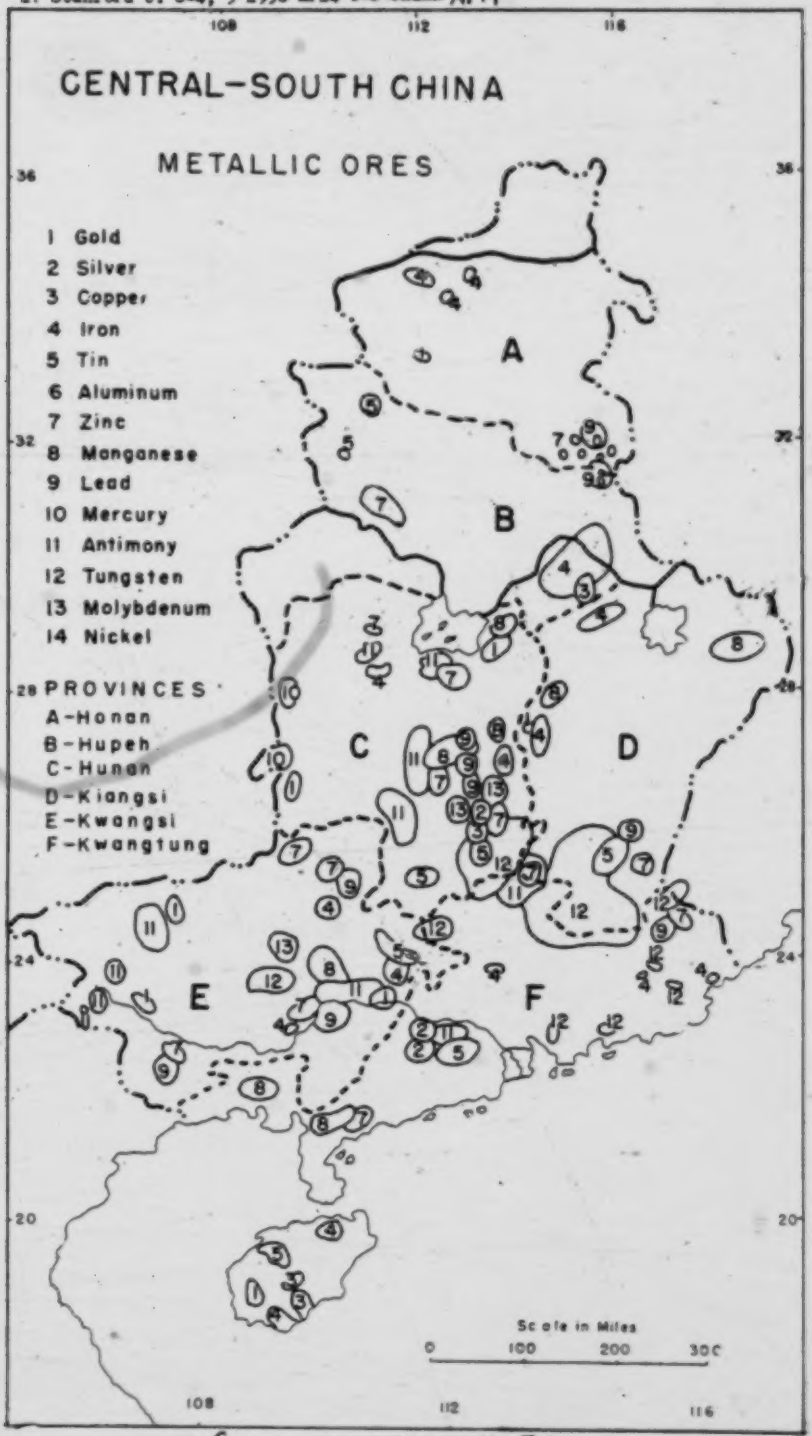

[facing p. 689 (b)]

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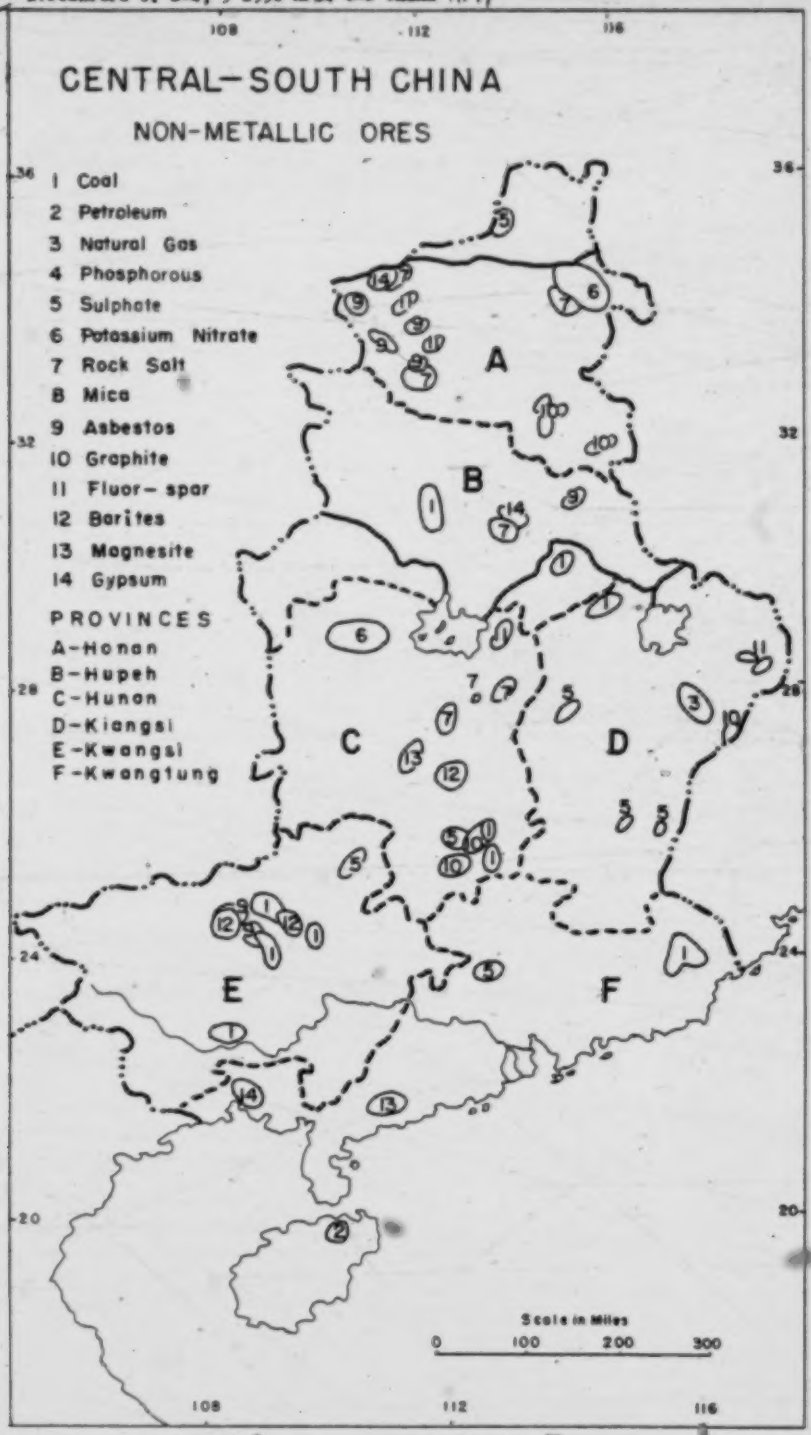

[facing p. 689 (c)]

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INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Mineral Deposits

The region of Central-South China is of importance in a study of China's industrial development because of the contributions it makes to the country's reserve of certain ferro-alloy and non-ferrous metals. Some 99 per cent of the country's estimated 2.75 million tons of tungsten ore (65% WO_3) reserve is found in the Central-South Region or, more specifically, in the provinces of Kiangsi, Kwangtung, Hunan, and Kwangsi.[1] The area also accounts for 85 per cent of the country's 4.2 million tons of antimony (metal) reserve,[2] which is concentrated in Hunan, Kwangtung, and Kwangsi. The significance of this high concentration is all the more notable in the case of these two metals, because Mainland China is reputed to be the most important producer in the world, although this historical position has been somewhat modified as a result of recent developments in other countries. In addition, according to data collected before the Communists came to power, Central-South China was responsible for the bulk of the country's production of manganese, molybdenum, lead, and zinc;[3] a substantial production of tin and some production of copper were also reported.

In contrast to the relative abundance of the minerals mentioned above, Central-South China is not particularly well-endowed with either coal or iron. According to the last Nationalist reports, the area's iron ore reserve approximated little more than 504 million tons, or just under 10 per cent of Mainland China's estimated reserve;

1. Bureau of Mines, Foreign Minerals Survey, Washington, D. C., 1948, p. 61.
2. Ibid., p. 55.
3. [See following page.]

1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

however, on the basis of these figures, it was second only to North China in terms of iron ore reserves in China proper, excluding Manchuria. In the case of coal, total reserves in the area, according to the last report made before the Communists came to power, amounted to only 13 billion tons, or less than 3 per cent of the minimum estimated reserve, and was considerably below the corresponding data for North China, Northwest China, and Manchuria.[5]

According to Sun Chin-chih, noted Communist geographer, Communist China's iron ore and coal reserves now amounted to 11 billion and 110 billion tons respectively.[6] In view of the Communists' inclination to exaggerate the country's physical resources, the accuracy of these figures

3. Geological Survey of China, General Statement on the Mining Industry, Nanking and Chungking, Nos 4, 5, and 7.

4. Bureau of Information Kang-tieh [Iron and Steel] , Nanking, 1947, pp. 11-15; Geological Survey of China, General Statement on the Mining Industry, Chungking, 1945, No. 7, pp. 88-89; and Chung-hua Nien-chien [Chinese Year Book] , Nanking, 1948, Vol. II, p. 1, 568.

5. Yuan-li Wu, An Economic Survey of Communist China, New York, Bookmen Associates, 1956, p. 26.

6. Sun Chin-chih, Chung-kuo Kung-yeh hua ti Ti-li T'iao-chien [The Geographical Conditions of China's Industrialization] , Peking, All-China Association for the Popularization of Science and Technology, 1955, pp. 15-16.

1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

may be questioned, especially in regard to the economic feasibility of recovering all the iron and coal deposits which may not be readily available. Although it is entirely probable that new discoveries have also boosted the known deposits in Central-South China, the region's relative share of iron ore and coal reserves, with respect to the other regions, has probably actually declined. Of the new discoveries reported, the P'ing-hsiang coal field in Kiangsi has been more frequently mentioned,[7] and there is a possibility that new ore bodies may have been found at Ta-yeh (Hupeh Province), the iron and steel center of Central-South China.

The First Five-Year Plan

In spite of the fact that the Ta-yeh iron and steel plant was established as one of the first modern industrial enterprises in China, and that iron ore mined in this area was exported to Japan before World War II, the region's relative scarcity of iron ore and coal have had a decisive influence in molding its industrial development, quite apart from the general backwardness of China's heavy industries. With the exception of the mining of non-ferrous and other metals, primarily for export, the region has few industrial centers other than Hankow (now a part of Wuhan) and Canton, and few industries other than light manufacturing, such as cotton textiles, sugar-refining, and tobacco-curing. Since most sections of the provinces in the Central-South Region were under Japanese occupation during World War II, the impetus given to Free China's industry in the Southwest by the demands of war was largely absent in the Central-South. On the other hand, the Japanese also failed to develop industry in this area

7. China News Service, Nan-ch'ang, Dec. 28, 1952.